

# **2014 Sea to Summit Summer Enrichment Program**

## **Winnacunnet High School**

For three fun, exciting, and hot weeks in July, seventeen incoming 9th grade students volunteered their time to participate in Winnacunnet High School's Sea to Summit Summer Enrichment Program, designed to support students as they enter high school in the fall and to improve academic performance and engagement. The Enrichment Program ran four days per week, three hours per day with one extended field trip a week. Funded jointly with a Title 1A grant and Winnacunnet High School, it was free of charge and available to all incoming ninth grade students from each of the four sending towns. Attendance was near perfect!

Through the creative planning and expertise of the teachers, students were engaged in continuous hands-on activities taking them from the classroom math, science, and technology labs; to the treetops of the WHS ropes course, to a beach clean-up with the Blue Ocean Society, into the Mud Flats at Great Bay Discovery Center, Cornell's Marine Science Research Laboratory on Appledore Island, and to the Summit of Mt. Washington aboard the Cog Railway. There was no shortage of fun, experiential and enriching activities to ensure academic success for students. Four 11th grade Peer Leaders helped enormously to ease the anxieties of the incoming students, answering their questions, providing guidance and support along the way, and familiarizing them with the layout of our large school campus. These Peer Leaders and teachers will be a welcomed and friendly face to the new students when school begins.

Teachers provided an effective, diverse pre-high school curriculum all aligned to the Common Core. Students enjoyed their daily Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) to finish their 9<sup>th</sup> grade summer reading requirement. Additionally, students were able to import their written reflections, graphs, data, videos, and photos into final iPad presentations. Families, teachers, principals, and other key community and educational members came together to celebrate the commitment of these students. The students presented their individual presentations and shared in food and conversation.

An elective credit was available for students to earn who displayed appropriate "Soft Skills" focusing on Collaboration, Conduct and Attitude, Work Readiness, Feedback and Improvement, and Work Ethic. Students completed weekly self-evaluations. In the end, teachers unanimously approved one elective credit for each student based on meeting the criteria of the Soft Skills Rubric.

The Summer Enrichment Program emphasized a strong academic and social enrichment experience that focused on improving literacy skills. The instructional approach was grounded on a student centered, inquiry based model, the experiential exploration of targeted learning goals, and implementation of many diverse and special activities to ensure and help students better understand what is expected of them in high school.

It is our belief and hope that through the WHS Sea to Summit Summer Enrichment Program the students will enter Winnacunnet High School engaged, motivated and better prepared to be successful in their freshman year. This will lay the framework for continued success throughout high school.

Submitted by: Lisa Brown, WHS Title 1 Project Manager

- YouTube Video [http://youtu.be/ROKeT\\_5JUO0](http://youtu.be/ROKeT_5JUO0)